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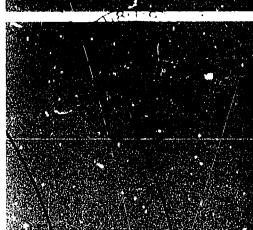
### ABSTRACT

As part of a series of books and pamphlets on outdoor education, this manual consists of easy-to-follow instructions for fishing activities dealing with casting and angling. The manual may be used as a part of the regular physical education program in schools and colleges or as a club activity for the accomplished weekend fisherman or the self-taught novice. These topics are included: (1) casting and angling in the curriculum; (2) equipment and techniques for fly-casting, bait-casting, spinning, spincasting, surf casting, and surf spinning; (3) methods for teaching fly-casting, bait-casting, and spinning; (4) games; (5) the National Association of Angling and Casting Club's rules governing casting events, classifications, and chevrons; (6) equipment, facilities, supplies, and scoresheets; and (7) recommended specifications for fishing tackle. A list of suggested reference books, articles, and films ends the publication. (NQ)



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### THE OUTDOOR EDUCATION SERIES

Casting and Angling is one of a series of books and pamphlets on out-door education, one of the most significant developments in education. Also in the series are Outdoor Education (for elementary-school teachers), 32 pp., 75c; and Outdoor Education for American Youth (for secondary-school teachers and administrators), 150 pp., \$2.50.

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR HEALTH,
PHYSICAL EDUCATION, AND RECREATION

### CASTINGANGLING



Prepared by AAHPER Committee Under Chairmanship of

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### foreword

Casting and Angling, one of the Outdoor Education series, will meet many diverse needs. Its easy-to-follow instructions will attract the accomplished weekend fisherman and the self-taught novice. It takes the simple, how-to-do-it approach, which instructors and administrators will find invaluable in setting up or improving the casting and angling activities in schools, colleges, camps, and other agencies.

As easting and angling developed as a part of the school curriculum, teachers and outdoor-education leaders asked for a qualified manual. This book is the answer to their needs.

Much of the interest in easting and angling was stimulated by the Outdoor Education Project of the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, a department of the National Education Association. The project is a cooperative venture with the Associated Fishing Tackle Manufacturers, the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute, and the Daisy Manufacturing Company.

The material was prepared by a committee of educational leaders with broad experience in schools and colleges. Several of them have taught casting and angling for many years. Special acknowledgment and appreciation is given to:

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**Julian W. Smith,** director of the Outdoo: Education Project, planned the publication and coordinated the efforts of the committee in its preparation.

Carl A. Troester, Jr. Executive Secretary



### contents



Casting and Angling in the Curriculum	2
Equipment and Techniques	3
Fly-Casting	3
Equipment	4
Techniques	5
Bait-Casting	7
Equipment	7
Techniques	8
Spinning	9
Equipment	9
Techniques	10
Spincasting	11
Equipment	11
Techniques	12
Surf Casting	12
Equipment	12
Techniques	14
Surf Spinning	14
Equipment	14
Techniques	15
Casting and Angling Instructor's Guide	16
Fly-Casting	16
Picking Up the Line in a Back Cast and Casting It Straight Forward As	
Far As Possible	17
Casting a Longer Line and Using Slower Rhythm	18
Bait-Casting	18
Developing Thumb Control To Prevent Backlash	18
Untangling a Backlash	19
Watching Plug During Cast—Review of Thumb Control	20
Developing Rhythm and Rod Action	20
Timing the Start of the Plug	21
Keeping Rod, Reel, and Target in the Same Vertical Plane While Overhead Casting	



Bridging the Gap Between Land Casting and Actual Fishing and Learning To Play the Big Fish Skillfully	23
Casting Metal Spoons and Spinners or Other Lures That May Sink	24
Spinning	24
How the Spinning Reel Works	24
Getting the Feel of Rod Action	25
Timing the : ort of the Plug	25
Keeping Rod, Reel, and Target in the Same Vertical Plane While Overhead	
Casting	
Keeping Rod Bent and Line Taut While Reeling in Plug	
Casting Metal Spoons and Spinners or Other Lures That May Sink	26
Games	27
Roving Plug	27
Plug Bombardment	27
Box the Compass	27
Challenge	27
Plugolf	28
The National Association of Angling and Casting Clubs	30
NAACC Rules Governing Casting Events	30
NAACC Classifications	41
NAACC Chevrons	41
Equipment, Facilities, Supplies, and Scoresheets	42
Equipment	42
Facilities	42
Supplies for Casting Competition	42
Scoresheets for Evaluating Class Members	43
Casting Target for Gym Floor or Lawn	44
Recommended Specifications for Fishing Tackle for Schools and Colleges	4.5
Bait-Casting	
Casting or Spinning	
Spinning	46
Fly-Casting	46
Suggested Reference Material	47



### CASTING and ANGLING in the curriculum



ISHING is one of man's oldest activities; it began as a search for food, with the most primitive equipment — perhaps a thorn for a hook, a slender leather thong for a line, and a willow sapling for a rod.

Fishing today is one of the major sports in this country. In 1957, nearly 20 million licenses for fresh-water fishing were issued; then too, some 4 million people fished in designated fresh waters where licenses are not needed. Adding the salt-water fishermen — there are around 6 million of them — to the 24 million fresh-water fishermen gives a total of about 30 million. Fishing, obviously, is a popular sport.

Fishing — or "angling," which comes from the Anglo-Saxon word for "hook" — covers a variety of styles: the boy with a hook (or maybe even the bent pin) on a string, the deep-sea fisherman offshore in a power boat, and the sportsman with rod and reel.

Rod and reel fishing, or "casting," is a wonderful sport. It can be a dynamic part of the school education program. Practice casting on a playing field or in a gymnasium is possible the year round.

Angling and casting can develop in students lifelong ideals of sportsmanship and conservation. These may be empty words to young people, but they become full of meaning in the lifelike situations they meet as they develop skill in angling and casting.

For the physically handicapped, angling and casting are sports in which they can join other students. They may find there a source of healthful outdoor activity that could otherwise be denied them all their lives.

A cardinal objective of education is to teach students the wise use of leisure time. This has long been accepted, but it is most important in these days of increased leisure time.

Casting may be a part of the regular physical education program, or it may be organized as a club activity, depending upon the local community and the educational program offered. In most sections of the country, angling and casting can be placed in the curriculum along with other basic physical education activities.



### EQUIPMENT and TECHNIQUES

NGLING and casting in fresh water or in salt water can both be considered in the three following ways:

- Surface Fishing\* Using for bait a natural insect or a small lightweight lure, called a "fly." Floating plugs are used in bait-casting and spinning.
- Midwater Fishing Using for bait a medium or heavy artificial lure, simulating a small fish, or the fish itself.
- Bottom Fishing Using a piece of fish or shell fish, worms, dough, or similar bait.

Modern sportsmen may prefer any of these three ways and may use a variety of equipment and techniques. However, they generally use only a few techniques with the special equipment suited to each. These methods are:

### For Fresh Water • Fly-Casting • Balt-Casting • Spinning • Spincasting

LY-CASTING was originally used only for trout and salmon, but fishermen have found that is one of the most sporting ways to take any fish that will strike an artificial lure.

The bait, or "fly," used in fly-casting is a lightweight insect or an artificial lure; it may be a "dry fly," or a "popping bug" which floats on the surface, or a "wet fly," which floats just under the surface.

Since the fly weighs too little to pull even the lightest line behind it, a heavy line and an unusually long rod are used. The line is cast first so that its weight carries the fly. The line must float on the water and must be cast so that the fly drops delicately onto the spot where the caster wants it.

FLY-CASTING



<sup>\*</sup>Surface fishing in salt water is usually not practical, but it is possible in quiet inlets under ideal conditions.

### Rod

For all-around use a 7- to 9-foot rod is the most practical. For casting in small streams and for indoor instruction, however, rods shorter than 8 feet are preferable. Newer fly rods of hollow glass are by far the most popular, but some excellent older ones are made of split bamboo or tubular steel.

Figure 1. Fly-Castan

Figure 2, Single-Action Reel

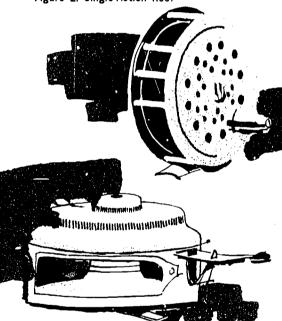


Figure 3. Automatic Reel

### Reel

Any single-action or automatic reel is recommended so long as it has the capacity to hold adequate line.

Many fly fishermen prefer single-action reels. (Single action means one turn of the crank causes one turn of the spool.) Generally speaking, a fish can be played more carefully on a single-action reel than on an automatic one, particularly in big water with a long-running fish.

Automatic reels are spring driven and rewind the line without manual operation. Automatic reels are very popular because of their ability to take up line quickly and to help prevent the line from snarling in the reel.

### Line

Double-tapered or forward-tapered lines are best, especially in casting a dry fly; however, a level line will work well for a beginner who is learning to cast either on a gymnasium floor or on the water. The line—whether tapered or level—must be heavy enough to bring out rod action, which is essential for line control in a stiff breeze. Forward-tapered line is particularly effective in exceptionally long casts.

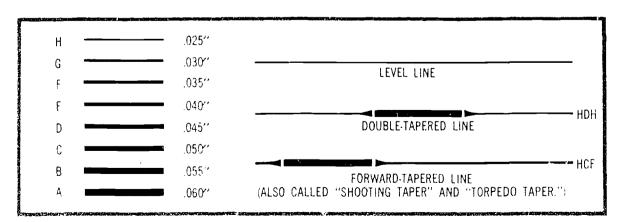


Figure 4. Chart Showing Kinds of Fly Lines



Figure 5. Three of an Infinite Variety of Flies

### Leader and Fly

A nontapered leader approximately 6 feet long is recommended for beginners' practice sessions and is also very good for some kinds of fishing. The leader should be 6-, 8-, 10-, or 12-pound test-even heavier-depending upon the size and taper of the line. For dry-fly casting, a tapered leader should always be used; its heavy end should be no less than two thirds the diameter of the end of the line.

A wide variety of flies are available in fishing tackle stores. Some fishermen, however, take pride in tying their own flies.

For practice casting, a dry fly should be used; it should be easy to see, and its barb should be removed.

### TECHNIQUES

5

The method used in fly-casting has two phases: the back cast and the forward cast. The back cast throws the line up over the caster's head and the forward cast whips the line out over the water.

### Stance and Grip

Stand in a comfortable position with the right foot forward. Hold the rod in the right hand\* with the reel and line guides below the rod. Use either of the two grips shown in Figure 6 - whichever is most comfortable. The left hand, palm facing in and upward, should hold the line out to the left side between the point where it enters the reel and the point where it enters the first lateral guide on the rod.

### Rod Position

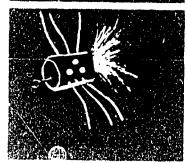
To illustrate different positions in casting, most instructors use the clock system. Imagine a large clock face behind the caster with the rod in his right hand and with his right elbow at the center of the clock face. The rod represents the hour hand. The rod should be held at 9:30 o'clock position (see Figure 7) with 20 or 25 feet of line extended on the water or the gymnasium floor. You are now in position to start the pickup and back cast.

### Pickup and Back Cast

Raise the rod tip slowly until all but several feet of line and leader are off the water or gymnasium floor. Start the back cast







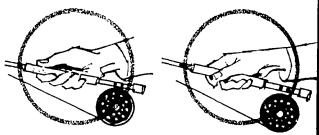
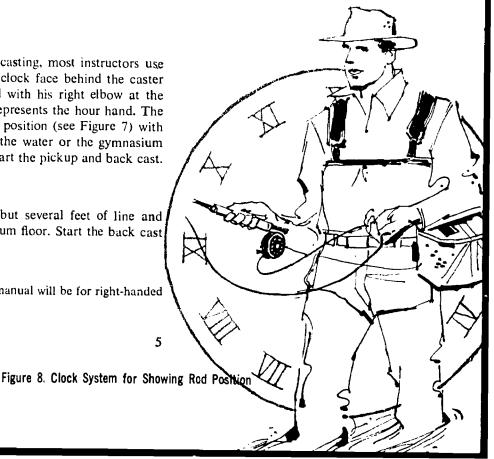
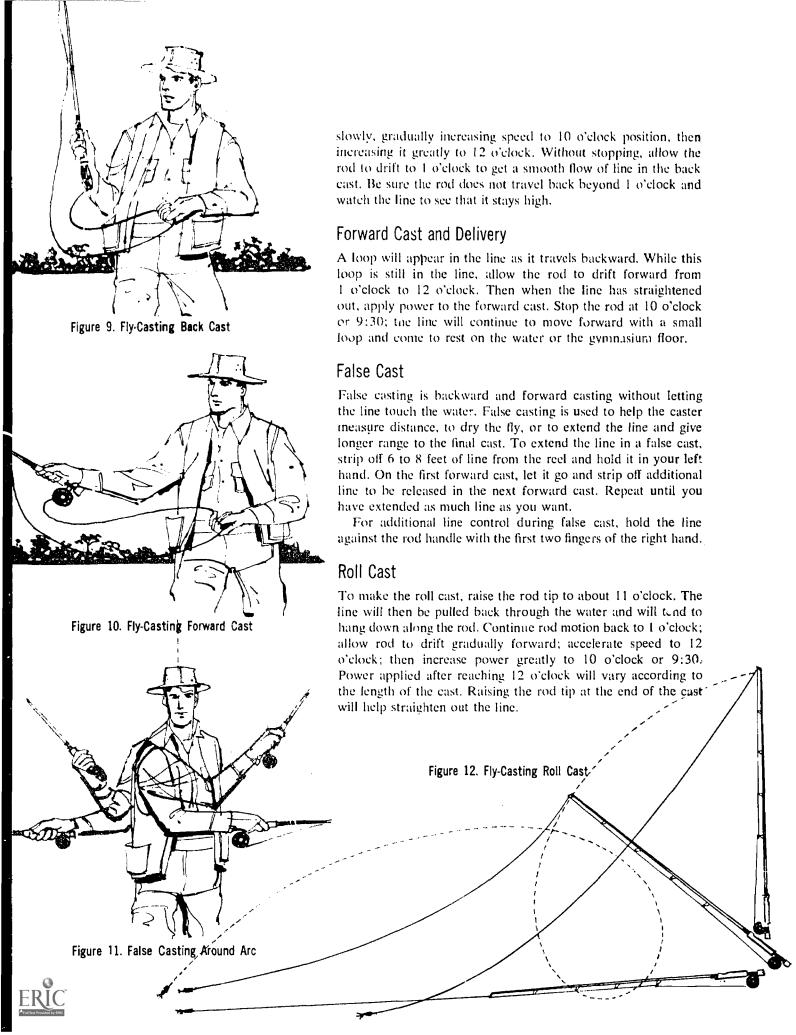


Figure 6. Fly-Casting Grips





<sup>\*</sup>All directions given throughout the manual will be for right-handed casters.



BAIT-CASTING and fly-casting are fundamentally different: bait-casting may be either midwater, or bottom, or surface fishing; fly-casting is surface or subsurface fishing.

Also, the methods of casting are different: in bait-casting, the heavy bait carries the line off the reel; in fly-casting, the line carries the fly.

The bait used is an artificial lure, or "plug," or such natural bait as a small fish, a worm, or a doughball, weighted, if necessary, to carry the line properly.

The aim in bait-casting is to drop the bait at the spot the caster wants it without undercasting, which drops the bait too soon, causing the line to continue to spin off the reel after the bait has dropped and may cause the line to snarl on the reel—to "backlash."

### EQUIPMENT

### Rod

A bait-casting rod should be from 5 to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet long. Most of them are made of fiberglass, but some good ones are made of bamboo or steel. The weight of the lure to be cast — not the size of the expected fish — determines the rod to be selected.

A medium-action rod is designed for %-ounce plugs, and an extra-light-action rod is for %-ounce plugs.

### BAIT-CASTING

Figure 1. Bait-Casting Rod



### Reel

A light-spool, medium-priced reel is recommended. Practically all fishermen and tournament casters now use standard level-winding reels. Bait-casting reels — unlike single-action fly-casting reels — operate with gears, commonly on a 4-to-1 ratio (four turns of the spool for one turn of the handle). All bait-casting reels have a device for putting the spool in free action or clicker. The clicker is used to impede the reel spool's turning when not casting; the reel is always in free action for casting. Free action or clicker may be used in retrieving.

A beginner should learn to cast with a reel that has no mechanical anti-backlash devices, although many good reels today are equipped with them.

### Line

Braided line of 9- to 15-pound strength is suitable for practice or fishing for average-size, fresh-water fish. Light lines cast better than heavy ones and cause fewer backlashes.

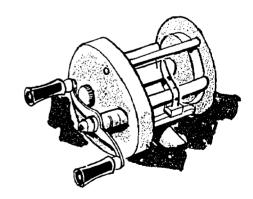


Figure 2. Bait-Casting Reel



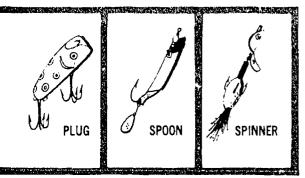


Figure 3. Bait-Casting Lures

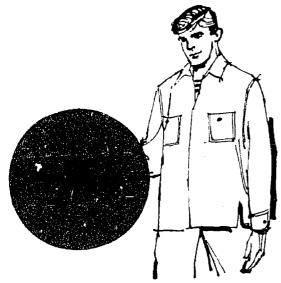
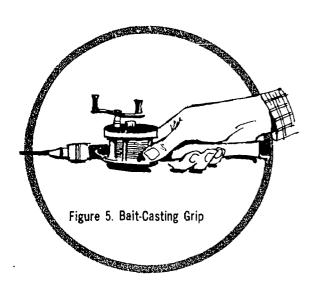


Figure 4. Bait-Casting Stance and Rod Position



### Plug

Plugs weighing from  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{5}{8}$  ounce are ideal for practice or tournament casting. Rubber plugs without barbs are recommended for gymnasium floors. An infinite variety of plugs or lures are available for bait casting; Figure 3 illustrates three kinds.

### **TECHNIQUES**

The basic cast—as in fly-casting—has two phases: the back cast in which the rod is raised from roughly horizontal to vertical, then stopped quickly—"checked"—and the forward cast, which whips the plug out and drops it where the caster wants it. Experienced casters may prefer an overhead cast or a side cast, but the overhead cast is better for beginners.

The illustrations show the proper stance, rod position, and hand grip, the start of the back cast, the overhead check, and the start of the forward cast.

### Stance and Rod Position

Stand in a comfortable position with the right foot slightly forward and supporting most of the weight of the body. Keep well balanced and keep the right shoulder slightly forward. The right arm should be relaxed, the elbow slightly bent, and the forearm parallel to the ground.

For average-length casts, the rod should be in line with the target and at about 9:30; for longer casts, the rod should be higher.

### Grip

Hold the rod so that the reel handles are pointed up. Put the reel in free action. Rest the right thumb on the thumbing bar with slight pressure on the exposed spool on the opposite side of the reel from the handle. Adjust the distance from the plug to the rod tip to suit the rod action.

### Back Cast

To execute a smooth back cast, begin upward sweep, gradually increasing speed to 10 o'clock, then greatly increasing it to 12 o'clock. Check the rod abruptly to allow the weight of the plug to flex the rod back. Plug swings up and back like an inverted pendulum. Some excellent casters follow the flight of the plug by moving their eyes and heads up and back, always keeping it in sight.



### Forward Cast

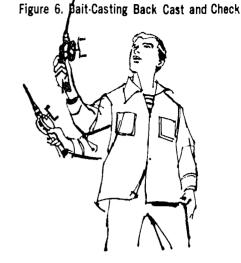
Start the forward cast immediately after the rod is checked in 12 o'clock position. Release thumb pressure on the reel spool slightly after the plug reaches 12 o'clock, according to the length of the intended cast. Apply thumb pressure to stop the spool when the plug hits the water or floor. Watching the plug in flight will help to develop coordination between flight of plug and thumbing the reel.

Be sure not to stop the rod at 12 o'clock with the line leaving the rod at a sharp angle; instead, continue to lower the rod as the plug moves out and keep the lateral guides lined up as nearly as possible with the flight of the line. Doing so cuts down friction of the line on the terminal guide of the rod; friction will slow the line and may cause a backlash.

### Retrieving the Plug

After thumbing the spool just after the lure hits the water, shift the rod to the other hand and start the retrieve. Draw the line between the thumb and forefinger from time to time to apply tension as it winds on the spool. Keep the rod tip high to avoid dragging the line on the floor or through the water; the floor will make it dirty or worn, and a wet line tends to backlash.

PINNING is a fairly new method of fishing, but it became popular with amateurs and experts quickly. Spinning is so easy to master that it has been called "the ideal method for the weekend fisherman," but it is more than a short-cut to success for the amateur. Experts have found that in spinning they can use lighter lines and lures than in bait-casting: lures 3/8 ounce or less and lines 2- to 8-pound test. With lighter lines and plugs they can cast farther more easily and can enjoy a bigger thrill in playing small fish.



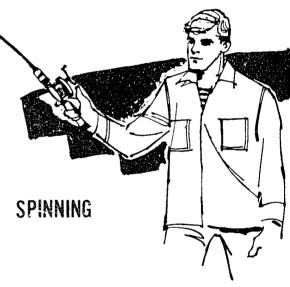


Figure 8. Bait-Casting Forward Cast

### EQUIPMENT



Spinning rods range in length from 6 to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet, longer than a bait-casting rod but shorter than a fly rod. For some fresh-water fishing, light rods designed to cast lures weighing less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce are practical. A general rule to follow in selecting a spinning rod is to choose a light rod to be used with a light reel, light line, and light plug; or to choose a heavier one when heavier tackle is to be used. For class instruction and tournament competition the rod selected should cast  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{3}{8}$ -ounce lures.



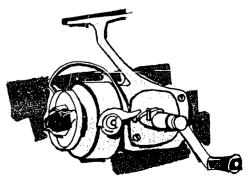


Figure 2. Open-Face Spinning Reel



Figure 3. Closed-Face Spinning Reel

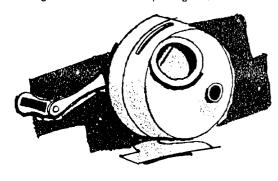


Figure 4. Spinning Stance and Rod Position

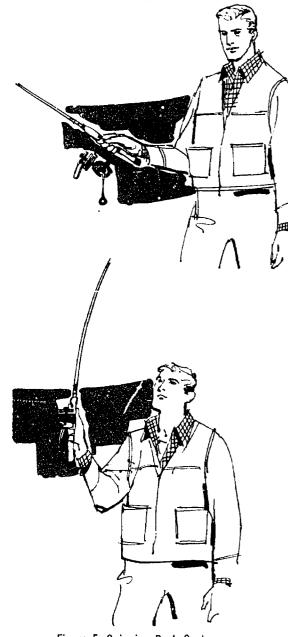


Figure 5. Spinning Back Cast

### Reel

The spinning reel looks more complicated than a bait-casting reel, but it is actually easier to use because it operates more quickly and requires less weight to unspin the line from the reel. Since the line spins off the front of the spool, the spinning reel eliminates the problem of backlash. Also with a spinning reel, longer casts are possible with a minimum of effort, and lighter lures (¼-ounce) and lighter lines (2- to 8-pound test) can be used.

Spinning reels are mounted under the rod, and may be open face or closed face.

Open-face spinning reels generally have a "bail," which is a swivel-mounted, curved metal arm that guides the line in winding back on the spool ("pickup"). However, some fishermen prefer using a reel without a bail (manual pickup) because it saves the time of cocking the bail before casting.

### Line and Plug

A 4- or 6-pound-test, flexible, monofilament line should be used for practice, competition, and most fresh-water fishing. Plugs weighing 1/4 to 3/8 ounce are ideal for practice; rubber plugs are recommended for indoor use.

### **TECHNIQUES**

The spinning cast is an overhead cast with the same two phases as fly-casting and bait-casting; the back cast and the forward cast; however, there is no pause between the two — the rod snaps quickly from the back cast into the forward cast.

The overhead cast, described below, is the basic cast in spinning and should be mastered first. Variations, such as the sidearm, the bow-and-arrow, and the flip-cast (not described in this manual) can be tried later.

### Stance and Rod Position

Stand in a comfortable position with the right foot slightly forward, supporting most of the body weight. Point the rod at the target area and hold it at 10 o'clock. The plug or lure hangs about 6 inches from the rod tip, depending upon its weight and the stiffness of the rod.

If you are using an open-face reel, move the pickup device to casting position; if you have a closed-face type, set your automatic pickup device in casting position to allow the line to play off the spool when the cast is made.

Hold the line firmly against the rod handle or stationary spool with the index finger until it is released during the cast. Some casters prefer to hold the line with the thumb against the top of handle.



### Back Cast

To begin east, dip rod tip slightly, causing rod to bend downward, then quickly bring it up to 12 o'clock position. The weight of the plug will cause the rod to bend backward as illustrated.

### Forward Cast

Without hesitating on back east, bring rod quickly into forward cast and release the line. Stop rod at 10 o'clock position, and put the index finger firmly against the spool as the lure nears the target area so as to prevent excess line from slipping off the spool

Followthrough will cause the rod to move forward to about 9 o'clock position. The pickup device on either open- or closedface reel will engage itself automatically. Retrieve the line at once by turning reel handle with the left hand; do not change hands as in bait-casting.

If the cast has been started too high, the lure may be slowed up or dropped into the target area by touching or fanning the line with the tip of the right index finger. This same fingering action can be used as an auxiliary brake when playing a fish.

1 PINCASTING is the newest form of casting. A pushbutton on the spincasting reel replaces the bail on the spinning reel and permits precision control for pin-point casting and instant anti-reverse mechanism.

### EQUIPMENT

### Rod

The rod used for spincasting is similar to a light-action baitcasting rod except that its guides are much larger. The reel is placed on top of the rod in the same position that a casting reel is attached to a casting rod. Spincasting rods range in length from 51/2 to 61/2 feet.

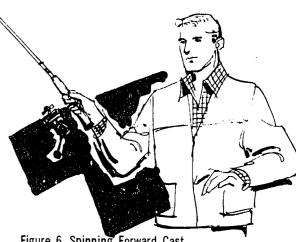


Figure 6. Spinning Forward Cast



Figure 7. Completion of Spinning Forward Cast



Figure 1. Spin-Casting Rod

### Reel

Spincasting reels are stationary-spool, closed-face reels mounted on top of the rod, which has a cutout cradle into which the reel locks.



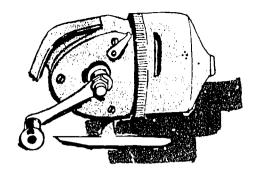
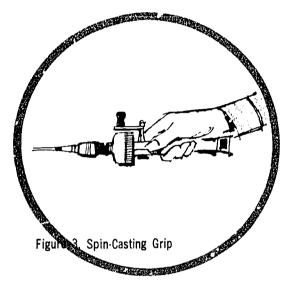


Figure 2. Spin-Casting Reel



### SURF CASTING

Spincasting reels do not cast as far generally as spinning reels, but they combine the simplicity and backlash elimination of spinning reels with the accuracy and "feel" of bait-casting reels. No bail is needed because the line spins out of a hole in the closed face and is picked up again through it.

The caster adjusts a pushbutton device on a spincasting reel to free the line for easy casting and then further adjusts it to make the spool nonreversible for trolling or for fighting a fish.

Since they are heavier than spinning reels, spincasting reels help balance the rod – in much the same way as a bait-casting reel.

### Line and Plug

Light lines and plugs are recommended: monofilament lines up to 6-pound test and plugs weighing from 1/8 to 3/8 ounce, or even heavier.

### **TECHNIQUES**

Grip the rod as shown in Figure 3, in the same way as a bait-casting rod, but, instead of thumbing the spool as in bait-casting, press the thumb on the pushbutton. As soon as the cast is made, release the pushbutton and change the rod to the other hand for the retrieve.

For additional control during the pickup, let the line run lightly between thumb and index finger of the left hand.

URF CASTING tackle is similar to fresh-water bait casting tackle, but it is considerably heavier. The bait-casting rod is from 5 to 6½ feet long while the surf-casting rod measures 8½ to 10 feet.

Casting into surf presents different problems than fresh-water bait-casting. The surf caster must deal with the force of the water; if he is bottom fishing, he must be sure that his weight is heavy enough to sink to the bottom, but, if he is using a movable lure, he must be sure that it is heavy enough and strong enough to move smoothly through the surf in the retrieve.

Surf casting equipment includes a sand spike, a rod belt or butt rest, and a thumb stall, which are needed only because of the weight of the equipment; they are convenient but not essential.

### **EQUIPMENT**



Figure 1. Surf-Casting Rod

For surf casting, a glass rod 81/2 to 10 feet long is recommended.



Figure 2. Surf-Casting Reel

Rods are manufactured with light, medium, and stiff action, but the rod chosen should be stiff enough to cast a weight or lure weighing up to 4 ounces. Two or three hard-metal guides are sufficient, but reversible-tip or double guides are not necessary on glass rods. The rod butt or handle should be hickory or ash, as both are strong and flexible. Reel seats and rubber butt plates are essential for good rod handles.

### Reel

A salt-water star-drag reel is recommended (the star-drag wheel on the crank shaft adjusts for smooth, slow pickup). The reel should have a wide spool that will hold at least 150 yards of 25-pound-test line and should be constructed so that the spool may be easily and quickly changed. The spool must be the free-running type; some models have a patented air brake or electromagnet attachment to help prevent overruns. Gear ratio should be 3 to 1 to make possible a quick retrieve of artificial lures.

### Line

At least 150 yards of 25-pound-test, pre-shrunk, nylon line is excellent for beginning casters or for fishermen when considerable casting is to be done. However, for bottom fishing with maximum weight sinkers, a heavier nylon line will give longer service.

### Weight or Plug

The practice weight should be a bank-type sinker weighing up to 4 ounces, but for actual fishing, the pyramid type will hold best in sand.

### Sand Spike

Although it is not essential for fishing and practice, the sand spike is convenient for holding the rod while the outfit is being rigged.

### Rod Belt

For actual fishing, the rod belt or "butt rest," is essential but is not needed in practice sessions.

### Thumb Stall

Suitable thumb stalls, available in cloth or leather, will prevent the caster's thumb from burning, especially during practice sessions on land.

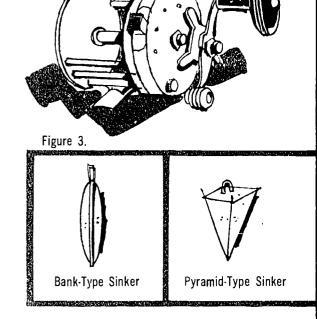




Figure 4. Surf-Casting Stance and Rod Position









Figure 6. Surf-Casting Retrieve

### **TECHNIQUES**

### Stance

Stand with the feet well apart and in line with the casting direction. Be sure to set the reel in free-spool; then grasp the rubber butt plate of the rod in the left hand and put the right hand just below the reel with the thumb holding the spool. Let the casting weight or lure hang 3 or 4 feet from the rod tip.

### **Back Cast**

Clear the area behind you; then bring the rod tip back by pushing the left hand on the butt and pivoting the rod on the right hand. When the weight is almost touching the ground behind you, begin the forward cast.

### Forward Cast

Cast forward, using both body and arm action to put power into the cast. Push with the right hand and pull with the left hand so that the weight is thrown through the air with the sweeping motion of the rod. Stop forward motion at 12 o'clock and continue light pressure on the spool until just before the weight strikes. Then apply stronger pressure to prevent a backlash. When the spool has stopped, take the reel out of free-spool and place the rod in the rod belt (or butt rest).

### Retrieve

If "squidding," start retrieve immediately; if bottom fishing, strip out enough line to allow weight to sink to the bottom and then turn reel handle enough to allow the rod tip to stay high.

### SURF SPINNING

URF SPINNING simplifies surf casting in the same way that fresh-water spinning simplifies fresh-water bait-casting. The surf spinning rod, reel, and line are heavier, however, than fresh-water spinning tackle, and the caster must become accustomed to the heavier feel before he can cast successfully.

### EQUIPMENT

### Rod

For surf spinning, a two-piece glass rod 8 to 9½ feet long is recommended. It should have extremely large guides; the guide nearest the handle may have an inside diameter of as much as 1¾ inches.

Figure 1. Surf-Spinning Rod





### Reel

Surf spinning reels are similar to fresh-water spinning reels, but they are larger and hold more line.

### Line and Plug

Heavy monofilament or braided lines are recommended. A 20-pound-test line will cast well and is suitable for average fishing. Surf spinning outfits will east 1- or 2-ounce lures and plugs long distances, but plugs weighing more than 3 ounces are not recommended.

### **TECHNIQUES**

### Surf Spinning Grip and Rod Position

The surf spinning cast is a combination of surf casting and freshwater spinning. The caster grips the butt end of the rod with his left hand; his right hand grips the rod over the reel, with the right index finger controlling the line, as in fresh-water spinning. The rod is held at 10 o'clock position. The bait, plug, or lure should be allowed to hang down from the rod tip 2 or 3 feet, depending upon the weight of the lure and the stiffness of the rod – lower for heavier lures and stiffer rods, higher for lighter lures and more flexible rods.

### Surf Spinning Cast and Retrieve

Begin with the rod at 10 o'clock position; bring it up overhead to 2 o'clock and quickly begin forward cast without hesitation, releasing when the rod returns to approximately 1 o'clock. When the lure strikes, hold the rod against the body or the arm with the right hand and retrieve the line and lure by turning reel handle with the left hand.

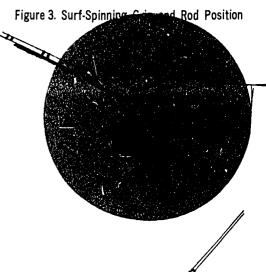
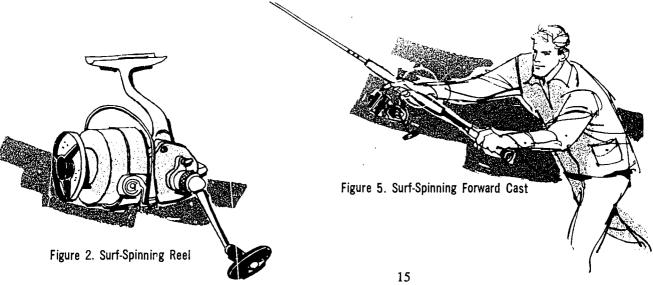


Figure 4. Surf-Spinning Beginning Cast







# CASTING and ANGLING INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDE

THE FOLLOWING sections are designed to guide the instructor in teaching classes in:

- Fly-Casting
- Bait-Casting
- Spinning

The methods of teaching these three basic casts can be adapted to teaching spincasting, surf casting, and surf spinning if the course of instruction is to include them. However, once the student has mastered the three basic casts, he can adapt the other skill himself with a little practice.

If classes are scheduled with enough time to allow for games, consult the section on games, which follows the instructor's guide.

### FLY-CASTING

OR INSTRUCTION in fly-casting, students will need nearly as much room directly behind them as in front.

Arrange the class around you in a semicircle. Have the students work in pairs with enough space between pairs to avoid interference

In practice and in actual fly-casting, be sure to notice in which direction the wind is blowing. Have the class stand so that the wind blows in from the left side and point out that knowing the wind direction is particularly important in actual fishing so as to keep the wind from blowing the line and the hook into the caster's face.

First, demonstrate and explain the skill to be taught. Second, call on various students to analyze the action and to identify the various steps and fundamental elements in fly-casting. Third, have a few students repeat the demonstration and ask the class to comment on any mistakes they notice; then have all the class members practice informally and coach each other while working in pairs.

Unless otherwise directed, begin all drills in fly-casting with class members holding the rod in the right hand, parallel to the ground (or with the tip slightly higher than the handle) and



pointed in the casting direction. Be sure class members have their lines extending straight out from the rod on the ground in the same plane and in the same direction as the rod and not more than 20 to 25 feet beyond the rod tip.

### **Explanation and Demonstration**

Start slowly, with a vigorous lift or pickup from 9:30 o'clock position as though the rod were to be carried back over the right shoulder. Stop with the rod at 12 or 12:30 o'clock; hold it for 2 seconds while the line shoots back and up and straightens out behind. At this point, the line will exert a pull on the rod, which will make it bend backward; it should be stopped at 1 o'clock.

The rod's reaching 1 o'clock is the signal to make the forward east. Whip the rod smartly forward and downward and stop at the starting position.

Demonstrate these steps many times and emphasize in sequence the slow pickup, the vigorous lift from 10 to 12 o'clock, the check of the rod at 1 o'clock, and the complete forward cast.

Point out to class members that in practice they should turn their heads to watch the position of the line on the back cast so as to time the forward cast correctly. Explain that turning the head is unnecessary after sufficient practice but that many expert casters do it to see whether they have room for the back cast.

### Drill

Have No. 1 of each pair carry out line from his partner's rod and lay the fly on the ground 20 to 25 feet beyond the rod tip in the direction the rod is pointed. Have him take his place 5 or 6 yards to one side where he can watch safely.

Have No. 2 cast, with No. I watching him carefully to see whether:

- He stops his rod in vertical position before beginning the forward cast.
- He pauses long enough to allow the line to straighten out behind but not too long to allow the rod to bend past 1 o'clock.
- The initial lift or back cast was vigorous enough to shoot the line all the way up and back.

PICKING UP THE LINE IN A BACK CAST AND CASTING IT STRAIGHT FORWARD AS FAR AS POSSIBLE



If the cast is poor and falls short, have No. 1 (the coach) draw the line out on the ground ready for No. 2 to repeat his try. When No. 1 has completed a successful cast, have him give the rod to No. 2 and act as coach for him.

### **Explanation and Demonstration**

CASTING A LONGER LINE AND USING SLOWER RHYTHM

With 2 or 3 yards of line dangling from the reel and some on the ground, show the class how to grasp the line with the left hand 1 or 2 feet from the lowest lateral guide on the rod. Then demonstrate the casting technique (picking line up and laying it back down), holding the stripped-off line in the left hand. After two or three such casts, demonstrate throwing additional stripped line out through the guides a few feet at a time until all the loose line is being cast.

Explain that this is done by releasing the noncasting hand as soon after the forward thrust as the line appears in front. Explain that the weight and momentum of the cast line will pull the loose line, or some of it, through the guides.

Point out that the noncasting hand holds the line during the b. ck cast and then releases it during the forward cast. Explain that this procedure should be continued until all slack line (previously stripped) is thrown through the guides into the cast.

Call attention to the fact that casting a longer line will cause a slower rhythm (including the pause for the line to straighten out in back) than a shorter cast and that a more vigorous lift of the line will be needed in the forward cast.

### Drill

Have the class practice the skills demonstrated, with No. 1 and No. 2 alternating as pupil and coach.

### **BAIT-CASTING**

RRANGE the class around you in a semicircle. First, demonstrate and explain the proper techniques of oiling and adjusting the bait-casting reel. Second, have class members assume the proper stance as in Figure 4. Check to see that each student has his hand on the reel in the correct position, the rod and plug at 9:30 o'clock, and the plug hanging down about 6 inches from the rod tip (depending upon the stiffness of the rod—closer to tip for flexible rods).

### **Explanation and Demonstration**

DEVELOPING THUMB CONTROL TO PREVENT BACKLASH

Give a brief explanation of backlash and show how removing the thumb from the reel spool will cause a backlash. Explain that backlash is a snarling of the line caused by the spool running



faster than the line. At the start of the cast, plug and reel are moving at the same speed; as the cast continues, gravity and resistance slow the plug and line, but the reel — unless checked — continues at almost the same speed, throwing off slack line faster than the plug can pull it. The resulting slack line winds back on the reel in the opposite direction, catches the line already cast, jerks the plug back, and snarls into a tangle that looks like a bird's nest.

### Drill

Have the class practice casting. With all class members in the correct casting position, have them release enough thumb pressure to allow the plug to drop 6 to 8 inches from the rod tip and then tighten pressure to stop the plug in mid air. Have them repeat the exercise several times, dropping the plug 6 to 8 inches each time until it reaches the ground. Explain that they must always keep enough thumb pressure on the spool to feel the line unwinding, particularly when the plug is shooting out in a cast.

Have class members wind the plug back to the rod tip; repeat exercise several times.

In preventing backlash, explain to the class members that they must:

- Cast with the wind if possible.
- Master thumb control and keep the thumb on the reel at all times.
- Stop reel before plug hits water, land, trees, weeds, or partner.
- Increase thumb pressure on spool when casting into a stiff wind.
- Continue to lower the rod as the plug moves out in the cast and keep lateral rod guides lined up with the flight of the line. (Beginners are apt to stop the rod in a vertical position instead of following through.)
- Work for smooth, rhythmic casts. (Sometimes a beginner will persist in jerky arm-extension movements or "throws," which tend to cause backlashes. To prevent throws, the student should kneel on his left knee and cast with his right elbow resting on his right knee.)

### **Explanation and Demonstration**

Show the class the snarled line caused by a backlash and demonstrate how to untangle it. Hold the rod, with the reel up, in the right hand with the thumb pressing the line gently against the reel spool. With the left hand, carefully pull the free line at the plug end through the level wind until you feel resistance. Continue to pull — but more gently, to keep from burying the line deeper.

UNTANGLING A BACKLASH



When gentle pulling stops freeing the line, back the spool with the right thumb for about ½ inch, then with the left thumb and index finger pick up and pull gently on the loops in the tangle. Pull out the freed line through the level wind. Repeat these steps and continue until all the line is freed.

### Drill

Have class members practice untangling a backlash — once they have untangled one they should be on their guard to prevent its happening.

### **Explanation and Demonstration**

WATCHING PLUG DURING CAST— REVIEW OF THUMB CONTROL Explain to the class that the easter must always keep his eyes on the plug and must stop it as it hits the water, or just before. Demonstrate a cast to the class and have them notice how you watch the plug.

Review the essentials of thumb control, stressing the importance of:

- Releasing enough thumb pressure to allow the plug to drop evenly and smoothly from the rod tip.
- Retaining enough thumb pressure while the plug is dropping to feel the line under the thumb.
- Stopping the plug just as it hits the water or within 6 inches of it.

### Drill

Have class practice casting, paying particular attention to proper thumb control, to watching the plug in flight, and to stopping it before it hits.

### **Explanation and Demonstration**

DEVELOPING RHYTHM AND ROD ACTION

Explain the flexibility of different casting rods, explaining that individual rods are apt to cast in a slightly different rhythm. Demonstrate rod action (with plug attached) by swinging it back and forth; explain that the caster can get the feel of the rod in action and the forward kick of the rod and plug if he:

- Holds the rod in starting position and aims it at the target.
- Brings it straight back over the shoulder at a steady speed.
- Reverses its direction without pausing and whips it straight forward in the same plane as the backward swing with approximately twice as much speed, holding the plug a few inches from the rod tip.



### Drill

Have students individually practice swinging the rod backward and forward from starting position without releasing the plug. Also have them practice in rhythm as you swing and count, "Ready – one, two." On "two," emphasize with your voice and rod the quick forward action of the rod, allowing no pause after the back swing.

### **Explanation and Demonstration**

Have the students line up in a straight row, backs to the wind, rods and plugs ready; have them count off from the left by twos.

TIMING THE START OF THE PLUG



For a review, explain and demonstrate:

- Keeping rod in same plane on backward and forward swings.
- Casting in rhythm back with a steady speed and forward with twice that speed.
- Keeping thumb lightly touching unreeling line at all times.
- Stopping plug before or just as it hits the water.

Explain to the students that they should lessen thumb pressure — but not remove thumb — on forward swing just before the rod passes the ear so that the plug will fly off at the proper elevation on a tangent to the arc the rod tip traces. Have them notice the elevation as they cast. If the plug flies too high, thumb pressure was released too soon; if the plug shoots to the ground, thumb pressure was released too late. Point out also that the plug's shooting to the ground may cause the line to backlash.

Explain to the class that casting with the wind is easier than casting into it — that the force of the wind helps carry the plug farther and more smoothly and keeps it from striking too soon. Point out that in casting into the wind they should increase thumb pressure during the cast to slow the line to the same speed as the plug with the wind slowing it.



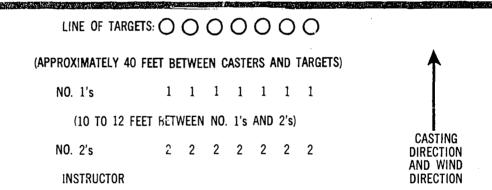
### Drill

Have all No. I's cast and all No. 2's act as observers and coaches; then alternate them after several casts. Move around among the pairs and help the casters with problems their coaches cannot handle; have the class continue casting until they have confidence and can easi smoothly and easily without backlashes.

The main reason a plug strikes too soon is that thumb pressure was not released early enough, but other causes are a stiff rod, a sluggish reel, a stiff wrist, or starting the cast with the plug too near the rod tip. If a student persists in throwing the plug to the ground, check him on all these points. Another aid to the problem of the plug striking too soon is to have the student start higher and aim at a treetop or cloud.

### **Explanation and Demonstration**

KEEPING ROD, REEL, AND TARGET IN THE SAME VERTICAL PLANE WHILE OVERHEAD CASTING Have the students face the target with their backs to the wind, No. 2's (coaches) 10 to 12 feet behind No. 1's.



Stress the importance of keeping the reel handle up at all times and rotating the wrist outward during the cast.

Explain to class members that during the back swing and forward swing the target center, plug, and rod must all be in the same vertical plane. Point out that a beginner tends to swing the rod back over his shoulder to the left and that doing so causes the plug to fly off to the right on the forward swing.

Demonstrate not only the proper way to cast (keeping rod, reel, plug, and target in the same vertical plane) but also the improper way (carrying rod and plug off to one side out of the casting plane).

Tell the class that experts, when casting with a strong side wind, aim just off the vertical plane in the direction of the wind, whose force will carry the plug in a curved flight to the spot where



the caster wants it. Explain that the caster must have experience and practice before he will be able to judge the distance he should cast outside the plane.

Explain that overhead casting is much easier for a beginner than side casting. Show them that overhead casting requires judging only the distance to the target and stopping the plug in time to hit it but that side casting requires judging both horizontal and vertical distance.

Point out also that overhead casting—for safety's sake—should always be used when casting from a boat or canoe with other people aboard; that the caster should look to see that his cast will not cut through the plane of someone else's cast. Explain that the side cast, often called the "boatsweeper," should be used only when the caster is alone in a boat and that, if two are casting from the same boat, they should overhead cast from opposite ends of the boat, looking behind before starting the back swing.

### Drill

Have No. 1's cast at their targets, with No. 2's far enough behind them to see whether they are swinging their rods in the same plane as the targets. After several casts, have them change positions.

At this point, make sure plugs are hitting in the same vertical plane with the targets. The plugs may be hitting the targets, going too far, or falling short, but they should *not* be veering right or left.

### **Explanation and Demonstration**

Arrange students facing each other in two parallel lines about 30 feet apart.

Tell the class that even if a fisherman makes a perfect cast and sets his hook in a fish's mouth as it strikes, he may lose the fish unless he can play it well. Explain that the fisherman who has hooked a fish must keep his line taut and keep a bend in his rod and, if the fish swims toward him, he must reel the line up fast so that the fish cannot get enough slack to shake himself loose. Explain that the bend in the rod shares the strain that would otherwise be borne by the line alone.

### Drill

Have No. 1's cast plugs to No. 2's, who catch plugs and immediately act like fish running away from the fisherman—off to the sides and directly toward him while wiggling and waving the plug. If the fish can get slack in his fisherman's line, the fish wins a point; if the fisherman maintains a taut line, he wins a point—but the winning trick is keeping the rod bent. After several tries, have No. 1's and No. 2's change places.

BRIDGING THE CAP BETWEEN LAND CASTING AND ACTUAL FISHING AND LEARNING TO PLAY THE BIG FISH SKILLFULLY



### CASTING METAL SPOONS AND SPINNERS OR OTHER LURES THAT MAY SINK

### **Explanation and Demonstration**

Arrange class members in a straight line with their backs to the wind and with 6 to 8 feet between one another.

Explain to the class that they must begin winding the reel to retrieve metal spoons and spinners or other heavy lures before they sink, because in sinking to the bottom — or near it — they may snag weeds and foul, or may rip off strands of weed, which they will carry with them. Point out that some fish — bass, for example — will not strike a lure that is trailing weeds.

Tell them that they should start the rod tip moving as soon as the spoon or spinner hits the water, moving it right or left with a steady motion while changing the rod to the left hand. Explain that the caster should start reeling immediately with his right hand and continue until the downward movement of the line and lure is stopped and that he should then retrieve the lure at whatever speed he wants. Caution class members not to let the lure sink while changing hands.

### Drill

Have each student cast, immediately move the rod tip steadily to one side, start the plug moving steadily while he changes the rod to his other hand, and complete the retrieve. Have the class—all or half at a time—practice this drill many times.

### **SPINNING**

ANY fundamentals are common both to bait-casting and to spinning. However, the spinning rod, which is longer than a bait-casting rod, and the spinning reel, with its ease of operation, makes possible longer casts and the use of lighter lures. Small spools and spinners and even large flies — too heavy for fly-casting and too light for bait-casting — can be cast with a spinning rod and reel. For practice, a 1/4- or 3/8-ounce plug is used.

### **Explanation and Demonstration**

HOW THE SPINNING REEL WORKS

First, orient the students to the mechanical operation of the open-face spinning reel. Show them — and explain — that the line spins off the front of the reel and that the reel spool is stationary during the cast, turning only when a moving lure is being drawn through the water, when a fish is being played, or when the line is being retrieved.

Show the action of the bail and explain how it is turned down for the cast out of the way of the line, which is controlled by the index finger and thumb of the right hand. Then show how turning the crank throws the bail up to guide the line as it rewinds on the spool. Explain also the action of an open-face reel without a bail and show how the fingers control the line during the cast and



guide it during the pickup; point out that a reel without a bail is not general, but that some fishermen prefer it.

Explain to the students the fundamental difference between open-face and closed-face spinning reels: that the open-face reel uses manual control of the line during the cast and bail action during the pickup and that the closed-face reel generally uses a pushbutton to put the reel into casting position and then into pickup position. Mention, however, that one kind of closed-face spinning reel is controlled in casting by thumb pressure applied to the spool through an aperture in the face of the reel.

### Drill

Have class members cock the bail of their open-face reels, allow the plug to drop to the ground, and then reel it back to the rod tip, watching the action of reel during the pickup.

If practical, have class members practice with closed-face reels.

### **Explanation and Demonstration**

Explain to the class that spinning rods are longer than bait-casting rods but shorter than fly rods and also that the weight of the reel, the line, and the plug determine the action of the rod to be used — a light rod for light equipment and a heavy rod for heavy equipment.

Point out to the class that the feel of different rods varies considerably and that the best way to test the rod's action is the same as in bait-casting; that is:

- To hold the rod in starting position and aim it at the target.
- To bring it up over the shoulder at a steady speed.
- To reverse direction and whip it forward in the same plane as the backward swing but with twice as much speed, holding the plug or weight a few inches from the rod tip.

### Drill

Have class members practice testing the action of the rod.

### **Explanation and Demonstration**

Explain to the class that, because the spinning rod is longer than the bait-casting rod, it is more active and that the effort made for bait-casting will make the lure leave the rod tip too soon and go too high. Point out that a shorter back swing and more wrist action will compensate for the difference in action of the two rods. Explain, however, that the amount of back swing and wrist action needed will depend upon the stiffness or flexibility of the individual rod.

GETTING THE FEEL OF ROD ACTION

TIMING THE START OF THE PLUG



### Drill

Have class members practice spinning, casting into the wind, until they have confidence and can cast smoothly and easily.

### **Explanation and Demonstration**

KEEPING ROD, REEL, AND TARGET IN THE SAME VERTICAL PLANE WHILE OVERHEAD CASTING Explain to the class the advantages of casting with the rod, reel, and target in the same vertical plane. Remind them of the drill in bait-casting that taught them to cast at the target without veering right or left. Demonstrate an incorrect cast and a correct one.

### Drill

Have the class practice overhead casting at a target, keeping rod, reel, and target in the same vertical plane. Watch carefully to be sure that each student masters this skill.

### **Explanation and Demonstration**

KEEPING ROD BENT AND LINE TAUT
WHILE REELING IN PLUG

Review for the class the section in bait-casting on bridging the gap between land casting and playing a fish. Explain that the same precautions are necessary in spinning as in bait-casting: that the fisherman may lose his fish if he allows the line to become slack, and that he should keep the rod bent to ease the strain on the line.

### Drill

Divide the class into pairs; have No. 1's cast to No. 2's, who catch plugs and act like fish running. No. 1's must play their fish skillfully, keeping the line taut and the rod bent. Change positions of No. 1's and No. 2's and repeat the drill. Continue until all class members have performed successfully.

### **Explanation and Demonstration**

CASTING METAL SPOONS AND SPINNERS OR OTHER LURES THAT MAY SINK

Explain to the class that they must begin the retrieve of heavy lures as soon as they strike the water so as to keep them from snagging on the bottom or picking up weeds. Recall for them the drill in casting sinkable lures in bait-casting.

Repeat to them that spinning does not require changing hands before the retrieve and point out that not doing so eliminates the need of swinging the rod tip right or left after the lure strikes—that they can begin the retrieve immediately.

### Drill

Have each student cast and begin the retrieve immediately, reeling in steadily to keep the lure moving through the water so that it stays well away from the weeds on the bottom. Have the class—all or half at a time—practice this drill many times.



OR ALL the following games, students should use regular bait-casting equipment and 58-ounce tournament casting plugs. Rules on accuracy and distance casting events are given in the section on The National Association of Angling and Casting Clubs Rules Governing Casting Events.

### GAMES

SMALL group roves through a backyard, park, field, or meadow. Someone picks out a brown oak leaf, a small stick, or a stump 30 to 80 feet away and challenges the others to cast closer to it than he does. Each person casts. The nearest cast scores 1 point. If a hit is made a 3-point bonus is scored. The caster coming closest to the object picks the next target. In this game, instead of retrieving the plug, the caster walks toward it as he reels.

### **ROVING PLUG**

WO TEAMS compete for a specified period. The team scoring the most hits on the target or targets wins. Alert judges are needed unless the targets used can be heard when they are hit.

### PLUG BOMBARDMENT

IGHT TARGETS are arranged in a circle with a 40-foot radius; the caster is at the center. These targets are arranged so that one is north of the caster, one is south, and the others are east, west, northeast, southeast, southwest, and northwest. The caster must hit each successive target before he goes on to another. The lowest score wins; that is, eight points would be perfect.

### **BOX THE COMPASS**

NE CASTER challenges another to ten or more casts with targets at a specified distance. Competing casters decide who goes first and then alternate until each has cast the agreed number of times. The caster scoring the most hits wins. If a tie results, each of the two casts five more times until one of them wins.

### CHALLENGE



### **PLUGOLF\***

PLUGOLF is "golf" played with plugs instead of golf clubs and balls. Ordinary bait-casting equipment is used: a casting rod and reel, a 15-pound-test line, and a 5%-ounce tournament casting plug. The course may be either a 9- or 18-target course, with greens equipped with cone-shaped metal targets instead of holes; however, greens, tee markers, hazards, group play, par scores, and scoring are similar to ordinary golf. Plugolf can be played by beginners or by experts.

HOW THE GAME IS PLAYED

Any number of persons can play, but the game is best suited to the usual twosomes, threesomes, and foursomes. (Even one player can play alone and compete against his own score.)

Players should first agree on the casting order for the game; then each player casts toward the target from a point about 6 feet to the right of the tee. Every cast counts 1 point, giving the total score first for the hole and finally for the course. As soon as the player hits the target on one green, he has "cast out" and is ready for the next green.

No cast is made from a distance of less than 40 feet. Second and third casts or additional casts necessary to get the plug into the green area must be made from behind the point where the plug fell. If the plug falls on the green (within a 40-foot radius of the target), the player must go back to the edge of the green and make his cast, to conform to the 40-foot minimum rule. He continues to cast from the green-boundary position until he hits the target.

CONSTRUCTING THE PLUGOLF COURSE

The course may be either a 9- or 18-target course, depending upon the area available. Each 9-target unit of plugolf should have one target 50 feet from the tee with par 1, one target 60 feet from the tee with par 1, one target 70 feet from the tee with par 1, one target 80 feet from the tee with par 1, two targets 100 to 125 feet from the tee with par 2, two targets 125 to 180 feet from the tee with par 2, and one target 250 feet from the tee with par 3. (See illustration on page 29.)

Greens can be a complete circle, a half-circle, or less than a half-circle, depending upon the ground. Half-circle greens are usually against a wall or fence, while greens less than a half-circle are placed in the corners of the field boundary. All greens are constructed with boundaries that extend in a 40-foot radius from the target, with the boundary marked by a white line on the ground. In more restricted areas, the green may be just a narrow strip of lawn with a line drawn across it 40 feet from the target.



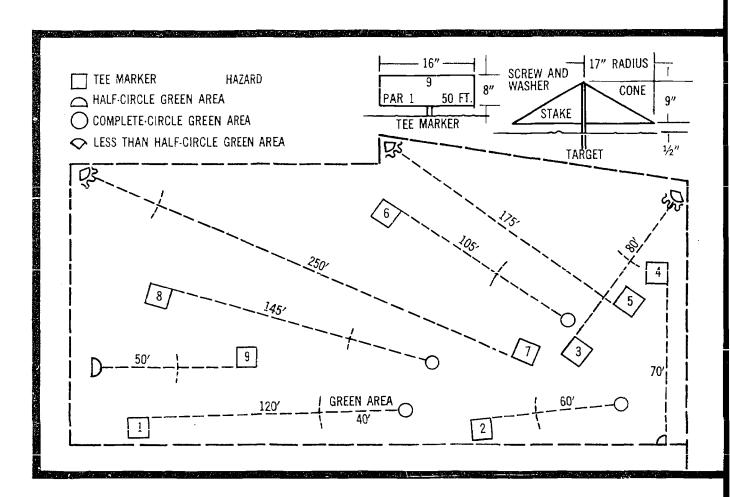
<sup>\*</sup>Originated by Dr. Harlan G. Metcalf, Chairman, Recreation Education Division, State Teachers College, Cortland, N. Y.

Three targets on each 9-hole plugolf unit should have a hazard placed near them.

Targets may be old galvanized washpans and washtubs, or cone-shaped targets may be made of 26-gauge galvanized iron. To make cone-shaped targets, draw a circle with a 17-inch radius on the metal and cut it out with tin snips. Then cut out a pie-shaped section 10 inches wide at the edge. Punch holes for bolts or rivets while the metal is lying flat; then form it into a cone and set the bolts or rivets. (See illustration below.) Paint targets white and letter each one with the name of a fish, such as bass, muskie, or trout. The names will help identify the targets and will add interest to the game.

The targets should be supported by wooden stakes, which are driven into the ground and to which the targets are fastened with large screws and washers. The lower rim of each target should be at least ½ inch above the ground so that the target will vibrate and make a loud noise when hit.

Wooden signs fastened to stakes can be used for tee markers; they should be  $8 \times 16$  inches, painted white, and lettered in black with the same name as the target.





NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

ANGLING

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CASTING CLUBS

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of Angling and Casting Clubs, the control organization for casting, was formed in 1906; however, the casting game dates back to just after the Civil War, and records go back as far as 1887. The NAACC is a member of the Amateur Athletic Union, the U.S. Olympic Association, and the International Casting Federation. Its prime objectives are to promote fly- and bait-casting as well as conservation and just plain sportsmanship.

Tournament casting permits the fisherman to use his tackle between trips to a stream or a lake, and, because of the wide-spread interest in tournament casting, most of our larger cities have some type of casting facilities. In some cities, the sport is municipally sponsored and casting pools and platforms are provided — some quite elaborate.

In addition to individual clubs and organizations, 13 state and district associations have been formed on a state — or group-of-states — basis.

Students should first be taught accuracy bait-casting events, as established by the National Association of Angling and Casting Clubs. The NAACC publishes booklets on tournament casting and instruction on how to form fishing clubs for men, women, teenagers, and juniors. Instructors may obtain these pamphlets by writing the National Association of Angling and Casting Clubs, P. O. Box 51, Nashville, Tenn.

### **NAACC RULES GOVERNING CASTING EVENTS\***

BAIT ACCURACY (5/8 OUNCE)

Rod — Unrestricted.

Reel - Unrestricted.

Line — Only \( \frac{5}{8}\)-ounce line is to be used, but the caster has a choice of the NAACC official plug line of 4\( \frac{1}{2}\)-, 6-, or 9-pound test, or any combination of the three.

Trace — A loop or trace of any %-ounce casting line may be attached to the plug. It must not be longer than 3 inches.

Bait — Must be the official \(^{5}\)8-ounce plug.

Targets — Five targets are anchored at random on the water at distances unknown to the caster. The target nearest to the casting box must not be nearer than 40 feet or farther than 45 feet; the



<sup>\*</sup>Adapted from By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the National Association of Angling and Casting Clubs, 1955.

target farthest from the casting box must not be farther than 80 feet or nearer than 75 feet. The remaining three targets are placed at irregular intervals in the intervening space. Targets must not be bunched or placed in line with each other. (See the diagram at the end of this section.)

Casting — Must be singlehand.\* Ten casts, two at each target, are made in the order the captain directs.

Method of Casting and Scoring — The plug-must fall within or on the target to be scored perfect. A demerit is scored for each foot or fraction of a foot that the plug falls outside the target. In case of a broken line, the cast is scored where the plug falls, except that no cast is scored unless the plug falls in front of the casting box. A penalty of one demerit is scored for each false cast over three, and such demerits are separately designated on the scoresheet. The score is determined by subtracting the number of demerits from 100 (the score for 10 perfect casts). A caster must not be given more than 10 demerits on any one cast.

After a caster steps into the box to cast, he is responsible for the result and must accept whatever score he makes. No fouls are allowed, unless they are caused by outside interference.

Five casters from the same club constitute a team for the \mathfrak{5}\mathfrak{8}ounce team bait accuracy event. A team may be composed of
men, women, or juniors or any combination of the three. No
club, however, is permitted to enter more than one team in this
event at any tournament.

A caster who belongs to more than one club is required to choose the team with which he will cast; he is not permitted to cast on more than one team.

The team, when called to cast, stands in line facing the targets and keeps the same relative positions until each has cast in turn at the 10 targets. (See the diagram at the end of this section.)

The team as a unit is responsible for its score, and interference by a teammate or by the captain must not be deemed outside interference.

A team's casting position is determined by lot. If the event requires more than one station, the stations are chosen by lot, drawn at the same time as those for casting position. Each team makes all its casts at one station uninterrupted; otherwise, rules of the \%-ounce team bait accuracy event govern.

TEAM BAIT ACCURACY (5% OUNCE)



<sup>\*</sup>Singlehand casting does not prevent the caster from holding his rod in one hand and the line or plug in the other. Singlehand means that the rod is held in one hand only.

SKISH ("SKEET-FISHING")
BAIT ACCURACY (58 OUNCE)

Rod - Unrestricted.

Reel — Must be of standard manufacture and equipped with a level-wind device in working order. Except for arbors of any material, which may be added, no alterations or design changes are permitted. All replacement parts must be standard — as manufactured by the factory producing the reel. The reel handle must not be shorter than  $2\frac{1}{2}$ s inches.

Line – No part of the line is to be thinner than the part fastened to the plug.

Plug - Must not weigh more than 5/8 ounce.

Casting - Singlehand only.

Scoring — Two casts are made at each of 10 targets; the first is scored 6 points for perfect and the second, 4 points for perfect. If the plug falls on or within the target, the cast is scored perfect; if it falls outside the target, it is scored zero. No fouls are allowed, unless they are caused by outside interference.

Targets — Ten targets are anchored at unknown distances from the caster; each target should be a ring or disc with a 10-inch diameter; however, they may be larger, but they must never exceed 30 inches in diameter. If a club has only five targets, casters may rotate from targets 1 to 5. The target nearest to the casting box must not be nearer than 40 feet or farther than 45 feet, and the target farthest from the casting box must not be farther than 80 feet or nearer than 70 feet. (See the diagram at the end of this section.) When indoor casting is planned — where space will not permit outdoor distances — the farthest target must be at least 65 feet away. Tilted targets are permitted when the targets and the casting point are on the same level, but the far edge of the tilted targets must not be more than 6 inches higher than the near edge. The casting box must be 4 feet square.

Method of Casting — Unless otherwise specified, free style is to be used. Casters will alternate, each making two casts at targets 1 through 10. As one caster moves on to another position, the next in order takes his place. Since each target has its own casting point, 10 players can cast at 10 different targets simultaneously; however, clubs using only five stations should place two targets, not more than 10 feet apart, at each station. The target nearest the caster is first at each station.



When using five targets at one station, casters will make two casts at each of targets 1 through 5, immediately repeating the procedure to make a total of 20 casts. Clubs using five targets and one station must be sure that the group of targets is centered with the station.

Determining Winners — The caster who has the highest number of credit points for the 20 casts is declared the winner, and the caster with the next highest number, the runner-up.

Deciding Ties — If two or more casters tie, the caster with the most initial perfects is declared the winner. If two or more tie on initial perfects, they cast for position at whatever number of targets the tournament committee decides.

Rod - Unrestricted.

Reel — Must be of standard manufacture and equipped with a level-wind device in working order. Except for arbors of any material, which may be added, no alterations or design changes are permitted. All replacement parts must be standard — as manufactured by the factory producing the reel. The reel handle must not be shorter than 2½ inches.

Line – No part of the line is to be thinner than the part fastened to the plug.

Plug -- Must not weigh more than 5/8 ounce.

Casting Box - Must be 4 feet wide and open at the back.

Method of Casting and Scoring—The cast must be singlehand and parallel with a measuring line on the ground. The caster must not swing the weight in a complete circle while making the cast; if he does so, the cast must be scored zero. No more than five and no fewer than three casts are permitted, each made in turn. (The longest cast should be made a matter of club record.) The three longest casts are averaged to give the score. Casts made outside the box are scored zero, and, if the line parts or the plug breaks from the line—after leaving starting position and before coming to rest on the ground—the cast is scored zero. During the retrieve, the caster must check and verify each cast for line breakage or loss of plug. No allowance is made, unless it is caused by outside interference.

Rod — Must be of standard manufacture and must have a means of retrieving line. The reel must be attached to the rod and not altered in any manner.

Line — The diameter must be the same from the plug to the point of attachment to the reel.

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SKISH BAIT DISTANCE (5/8 OUNCE)

SKISH SPINNING ACCURACY (1/4 OUNCE)



Plug – Must not weigh more than ¼ ounce and must be the NAACC official plug or its equivalent in size and shape.

Casting - Singlehand only.

Scoring, Targets, Method of Casting, Determining Winners, and Deciding Ties — The same rules as for Skish Bait Accuracy are used.

SKISH SPINNING DISTANCE (3/8 OUNCE)

Rod — Any standard make of rod no longer than  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet. It must not have a means of attachment to the caster's bod, or his arm above the wrist.

Reel — Must be of standard manufacture, must have a fixed spool, and must have a means of retrieving line. The reel must be attached to the rod and must not be altered in any manner.

Line — Must be of the same diameter from the plug to the point of attachment to the reel. No shock or bumper lines are allowed.

Plug — Plug must not weigh more than 3/8 ounce and must be the NAACC official plug or its equivalent in size and shape.

Casting Box – Must be 4 feet wide and open at the back.

Method of Casting and Scoring—The cast must be singlehand on water or ground parallel with a measuring line. The caster must not swing the weight in a complete circle while making the cast; if he does so, the cast must be scored zero. No more than five and no fewer than three casts are permitted, each made in turn. (The longest cast should be made a matter of club record.) The three longest casts are averaged to give the score. Casts made outside the box are scored zero, and, if the line parts or the plug breaks from the line—after leaving starting position and before coming to rest on the water or ground—the cast is scored zero. During the retrieve, the caster must check and verify each cast line for line breakage or loss of plug. No allowance is made, unless caused by outside interference.

DRY FLY ACCURACY

Rod Length - Must not be longer than 9½ feet.

Rod Weight - Unrestricted.

Reel - Unrestricted.

Line — Unrestricted, but it must not be marked to indicate distances or fastened to the reel at the 50-foot mark.

Leader — Must be a single leader of natural or artificial gut, or gut substitute, not less than 6 feet long.



Fly — Must be the official dry fly of the NAACC and must not be oiled or treated. Only one fly attached to the leader is permitted. It may be changed and, if lost, may be replaced with another approved by the captain.

Targets — One or more stations is used; each has five targets anchored at random on the water at distances unknown to the caster. If more than one station is used for the same targets, they are arranged, as nearly as possible, to give all casters equal distance. The target nearest to the casting box must not be nearer than 20 feet or farther than 25 feet; the target farthest from the casting box must not be farther than 50 feet or nearer than 45 feet. The remaining three targets are placed at irregular intervals in the intervening space. The targets must not be bunched or placed in line with each other. (See the diagram at the end of this section.)

Casting - Singlehand.

Time — Caster must complete his score within 8 minutes. The time starts when he steps into the casting box. No time out is allowed for replacing a fly or for an accident, except in a case of outside interference. A penalty of five demerits must be scored for each minute or fraction of a minute overtime.

Method of Casting and Scoring — The caster starts with the fly in either hand and must have no length of line or leader extending beyond the length of the rod. The line is to be extended to the respective targets by stripping — in general, while the fly is in the air. After starting, the caster is permitted to hold any loose line in either hand. He then lifts the line and leader from the water, neither stripping nor pulling the line or leader on the water, unless the rod is in motion, retrieving the fly. A penalty of two demerits must be scored for each improper stripping or pulling.

Whenever a fly strikes the water in front of the caster on a forward cast, it must be scored. After striking the water, the fly is left floating a few seconds; then, when the judges call "score," the line is retrieved. A penalty of two demerits must be scored each time the line is improperly retrieved before the judges call score. If the fly fails to float or sinks and then rises to the surface before the judges call score, it must be scored a sunken fly. Five demerits must be scored for each sunken fly.





Should the line, leader, or fly strike the water on a retrieve, a "tick" is scored — not a cast. A penalty of five demerits must be charged for each tick. The penalty for a tick must count during casting time either in or out of the casting box. The caster must not allow the fly to dangle and be blown over the target before dropping; a penalty of two demerits must be scored for doing so.

No cast is to be scored without a fly. Judges will notify the caster whenever they notice a fly is off. The fly must fall within or on the target to be scored perfect. For each foot or fraction of a foot that the fly falls outside the target, one demerit must be scored, but no more than 10 of these demerits are to be scored on any one cast. However, demerits for penalties must be additional. The score is determined by subtracting the number of demerits from 100 (the score for 10 perfect casts).

Penalty Demerits
Improper Strip or Pull2
Overtime
Sunken Fly5
Improper Retrieve2
Tick5
Improper Cast2

SKISH FLY ACCURACY

Rod, Reel, Line, and Leader — Unrestricted, but the same outfit must be used in all events unless it is broken.

Fly – Must be tied in approved dry-fly style. The point of the hook must be broken off back of the barb. Bug-type flies are not permitted.

Targets—Five rings or discs of 30-inch diameter are placed at unknown distances from 20 to 40 feet from the casting box. (See the diagram at the end of this section.) Casting order is from left to right, and each caster starts with the target nearest to the casting box. The casting box must be 4 feet square.

### First Round — Dry Fly. (Time limit, 2½ minutes)

The caster must start with fly in hand and must have no slack line. Time begins, and the first try is scored when called by the judges as the fly drops on the surface (water, floor, or ground). Three casts are made at each target, and at least one false cast is made between each score or each lay of the fly.



Scoring -- Only perfect casts, landing in or on the ring, score. The following scores apply to each of the five rings: 5 points for perfect on the first try, 3 points for perfect on the second try, and 2 points for perfect on the third try. The fly must rest on the water until the judge calls score. Ticks and sunken flies count as casts. Time goes on in spite of a broken line or a lost fly. The caster continues to score on all five targets or until the judge calls time.

Possible Score - Fifty points.

### Second Round - Roll Casting. (Time Limit, 11/2 minutes)

With fly resting at the last ring, the caster starts roll casting from the last ring to the target nearest to the casting box until a perfect cast has been scored. He then goes on the target on the left and continues to score on all five targets, or until the judge calls time. Time begins when the fly strikes.

Scoring - Each perfect cast scores 5 points; fly need not float.

Possible Score - Twenty-five points.

### Third Round - Wet Fly. (Time Limit, 11/2 Minutes)

The caster starts with fly in hand and must have no slack line. He begins extending line to the nearest target by false casting. Time begins as the fly drops on the surface as a measuring cast. Two casts in succession without false casts must be made at each of five targets from left to right, stripping necessary line to reach each target. The caster scores on all five targets, or until the judge calls time.

Scoring — Only perfect casts, landing in or on the ring, score. For each ring, 3 points are scored for a perfect on the first try, and 2 points for a perfect on the second try. The fly need not float.

Possible Score - Twenty-five points.

Deciding Ties — If two or more casters tie, the one with the most initial perfects is declared the winner. If two or more tie on initial perfects, they cast for position.

Rod Length - Must be no longer than 9½ feet.

Rod Weight - Unrestricted.

Reel - Unrestricted.

Line — The line must have a diameter of no more than .065; it must not be knotted, weighted, or marked to indicate distances; and it must not be fastened to the reel at the 55-foot mark.

WET FLY ACCURACY



Leader — Must be a single leader of natural or artificial gut, or gut substitute, no shorter than 6 feet.

Fly – Must be the official wet fly of the NAACC. Only one fly attached to the leader is permitted. If the fly is lost, it may be replaced with another approved by the captain.

Targets – Five targets are placed on the water in a straight line with their centers 35, 40, 45, 50, and 55 feet from the casting box. (See the diagram at the end of this section.)

Casting - Singlehand. Ten casts are made, two at each target.

Time — Caster must complete his score within 5 minutes; the time starts when he steps into the casting box. No time out is allowed for replacing a fly or for any accident, except in case of outside interference. A penalty of five demerits must be scored for each minute or fraction of a minute overtime.

Method of Casting and Scoring — The caster starts with the fly in either hand and with no line or leader extending beyond the length of the rod. The line is to be extended to the first target by stripping. When he is ready, the caster calls score and casts at the first (35-foot) target and follows with a second cast at the same target. He then strips line and casts at the second (40-foot) target and again follows with a second cast at that target. He continues casing at the three remaining targets in order until 10 casts have been made. No false casts are permitted between targets; a penalty of two demerits is scored for each. So that the caster strips line properly between targets, he must not hold enough loose line in either hand to make stripping unnecessary and must not measure line by stripping along the rod. A penalty of two demerits must be scored for improper stripping.

In case of outside interference or the loss of the fly during the cast at any time after calling score, the caster must work out to the point where the outside interference or the loss of the fly occurred, call score, and continue as described above.

In case of outside interference or the loss of the fly when changing from target to target, the caster must work out to the target one demerit must be scored, but no more than 10 if these loss of the fly occurred, call score, cast at the next target, and continue as described above. No cast is to be scored without a fly. Judges will notify the caster whenever they notice a fly is off.

The fly must fall within or on the target to be scored perfect. For each foot or fraction of a foot that the fly falls outside the target one demerit must be scored, but no more than 10 if these demerits are to be scored on any one cast. However, demerits for penalties must be additional. The score is determined by subtracting the number of demerits from 100 (the score for 10 perfect casts). Casts are scored where the fly first strikes the water regardless of where it may ultimately settle.



### Penalty Demerits Overtime ... False Cast ... Improper Strip ...

Rod – Any standard make rod no longer than  $9\frac{1}{2}$  feet.

Reel – Any standard reel of capacity to hold the entire line.

Line — Any conventional fly line of standard taper and standard material. Lines with metal inlays and those made or treated in any way to make them unusually heavy are not allowed. The line from the point of taper to the holding line must not exceed % ounce. It must not have splices, except where repairs have been made.

Leader - Any standard leader no longer than 12 feet.

Fly - NAACC official trout distance fly or its equivalent.

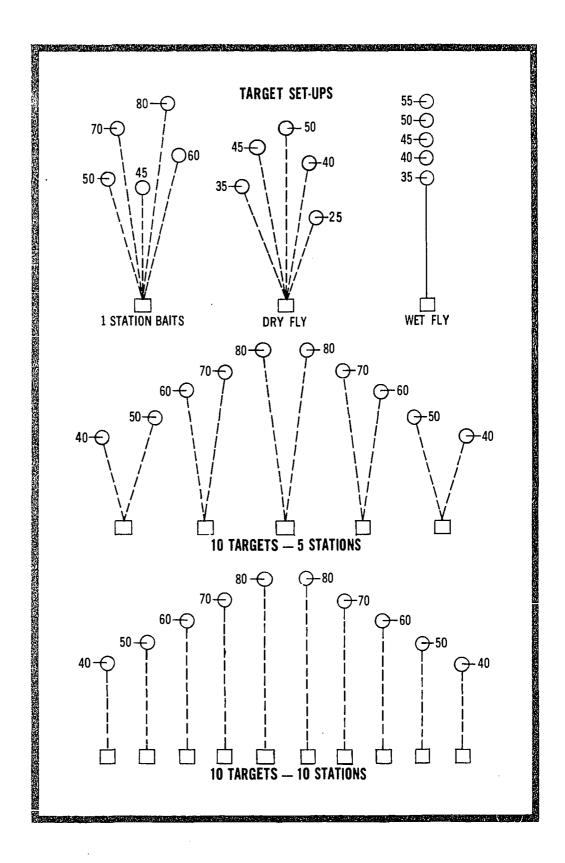
Casting Box — Must be 4 feet wide and open at the back.

Time - Five minutes from the time the caster steps into the casting box.

Method of Casting and Scoring - The caster starts with fly in hand and must have no slack line. The line must be attached to the reel and the reel must be attached to the rod. Before stepping into the casting box, the caster strips line from the reel onto the floor or the ground. The end of the line must remain attached to the reel. The cast must be singlehand, overhead, on the water or the ground parallel with a measuring line, and without outside assistance. Casts made outside the box must be scored zero. The caster is given 5 minutes casting time, Each caster is given a stated period of time to get ready, and, when that time has passed, his casting time must start. If he does not use all the time given him to get ready, his casting time is 5 minutes from the time he calls score. The first cast to be scored is the last one made after the fly is in front of the casting box on the forward cast and before time is called. Rod butts must not be placed in the sleeve or fastened to the wrist, arm, or clothing. The penalty for violation of this rule must be disqualification. At least three scored casts must be made to qualify. No cast is to be scored without a fly. The judge will notify the caster whenever he notices the fly is off. No time is allowed for replacing a fly or for any other accident, except in case of outside interference. (The longest cast should be made a matter of club record.) The three longest casts are averaged to give the score.

SKISH FLY DISTANCE







EGISTERED tournament competition may be either championship, Class B, or Class C. The secretary of the caster's club classifies each caster by his average or his known ability as follows:

### **NAACC CLASSIFICATIONS**

	CHAMPIONSHIP	CLASS B	CLASS C
DRY FLY	95 OR OVER	85-95	85 OR UNDER
WET FLY	95 OR OVER	85-95	85 OR UNDER
5%-OUNCE ACCURACY	95 OR OVER	85-95	85 OR UNDER
SKISH BAIT	66 OR OVER	51-65	50 OR UNDER
SKISH FLY	66 OR OVER	51-65	50 OR UNDER

Casters who have never cast in registered tournaments are to be Class C in all events until they have cast or have been classified in a higher class.

	CHAMPIONSHIP	CLASS B	CLASS C
SKISH BAIT DISTANCE (5% OUNCE) SKISH FLY DISTANCE SKISH SPINNING ACCURACY (1/4 OUNCE) SKISH SPINNING DISTANCE	200 OR OVER	180-199	180 OR UNDER
	100 OR OVER	85-99	85 OR UNDER
	50-100	35-49	35 OR UNDER
	175 OR OVER	150-174	150 OR UNDER

HEVRONS are awarded for scores cast only in skish bait accuracy, skish fly accuracy, and skish spinning accuracy. The chevrons are given free of charge.

Casters scoring 80 to 100 will qualify as Masters; those scoring 65 to 79 will qualify as Experts; and those scoring 50 to 64 will qualify for the Merit Award.

Only award-winning scores should be sent to the NAACC office. Scoresheets must be signed by two officers and must give the caster's correct address, as the NAACC office will mail awards directly to the caster.

### **NAACC CHEVRONS**







## FACILITIES, SUPPLIES, and SCORESHEETS



### **EQUIPMENT**

PURCHASING rods, reels, lines, practice plugs, and targets, high quality merchandise should be selected. Inferior equipment is more difficult to keep in good repair and may need frequent replacements, which are costly. Purchase a few quality outfits in starting a new program and add additional items as the budget permits until a sufficient quantity is obtained. Standard-brand equipment purchased from reputable dealers is serviced for minimum costs. Schools and colleges purchasing casting equipment should expect discounts comparable to those given for other instructional supplies and athletic goods. (Targets may be purchased from the NAACC or made in a school shop. See Diagram on page 44.)

### **FACILITIES**

OST SCHOOLS and colleges have both indoor and outdoor facilities in the community that can be used for casting — multipurpose rooms, gymnasiums, armories, swimming pools, athletic fields, playgrounds, lawns, ponds, and streams. Proper use or modification of available facilities can make casting instruction available to students in many schools that do not have facilities for other sports and games.

### SUPPLIES FOR CASTING COMPETITION

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ANGLING AND CASTING CLUBS carries a complete line of supplies (other than tackle) for casting competition. A list of these supplies and prices will be sent upon request to the NAACC Headquarters, P. O. Box 51, Nashville, Tennessee.



VALUATION, scoring, and grading of class members are simple if daily records of progress are kept. Mimeographed sheets can be used for easy recording. The simple form below is useful for a class of 30 students, and it could readily be used to score class progress in either tournament bait-casting or skish.

### SCORESHEETS FOR EVALUATING CLASS MEMBERS

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# CASTING TARGET FOR GYM FLOOR OR LAWN 1/4-INCH EXTERIOR PLYWOOD HINGED PEG FOR CONVENIENCE IN HANDLING AND STORING RECOMMENDED COLORS, RED, WHITE, BLUE, GREEN AND YELLOW 1/4" 1/4" 1/4" 1/4" 1/4" 1/2" HINGED TARGET DESIGNED ACCORDING TO STANDARDS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ANGLING AND CASTING CLUBS



### RECOMMENDED SPECIFICATIONS for FISHING TACKLE for SCHOOLS and COLLEGES

The following specifications for fishing tackle are suggested for instructional use, primarily for beginners in secondary and college casting activities. Prices are for good quality, medium-priced merchandise.

Prepared by the OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROJECT TACKLE COMMITTEE

### **BAIT-CASTING**

ITEM	SIZES	ACTION	TYPES	APPROXIMATE PRICE RANGE
REELS	100- TO 125-YARD CAPACITY		LEVEL WIND, LIGHT-WEIGHT TO MEDIUM-WEIGHT SPOOL PREFERRED.	\$7.50\$15.00
RODS	5 TO 6½ FEET	LIGHT	FROM FISHING TYPE WITH PLENTY OF BACK-BONE TO TOURNAMENT TYPE.	\$5.00—\$18.00
LINES	10- TO 15-POUND TEST		BRAIDED. LINE BACKING OR ARBOR MAY BE REQUIRED TO FILL REEL TO BEST FISHABLE CAPACITY.	\$1.50 FOR 50-YARD SPOOL
PLUGS	%-OUNCE PRACTICE			



### CASTING OR SPINNING

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ITEM	SIZES	ACTION	TYPES	APPROXIMATE PRICE RANGE
REELS			ENCLOSED SPOOL MOUNTS ON TOP OF ROD	\$12.50—\$20.00
RODS	5½-6½ FEET	LIGHT OR MEDIUM	GENERAL FISHING, ONE- OR TWO-PIECE	\$6.75—\$18.00
LINES	AS FURNISHED WITH REEL OR 6-POUND TEST		MONOFILAMENT BRAIDED SPINNING LINE	\$1.25 PER 100 YARDS \$2.00—\$2.40 PER 100 YARDS
PLUGS	3/8-OUNCE PRACTICE			
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ITEM	SIZES	ACTION	TYPES	APPROXIMATE PRICE RANGE
REELS	STANDARD FRESH-WATER MODELS	geographical des places of the first of the second	OPEN-FACE OR CLOSED-FACE TYPES; MANUAL, BAIL, AND FINGER PICKUP; VARYING SPOOL CAPACITIES	<b>\$</b> 12.50— <b>\$3</b> 0. <b>00</b>
RODS	6 F00T—7 F00T	LIGHT OR MEDIUM	ONE- OR TWO-PIECE	\$6.75—\$25.00
LINES	6-POUND TEST		MONOFILAMENT BRAIDED SPINNING LINE	\$1.25 PER 100 YARDS \$2.00—\$2.40 PER 100 YARDS
PLUGS	1/4-CUNCE PRACTICE			
			FL	Y-CASTING
ITEM	SIZES	ACTION	TYPES	APPROXIMATE PRICE RANGE
REELS	STANDARD FRESH-WATER MODELS	Security Management of the Control o	SINGLE ACTION AUTOMATIC	\$3.50—\$10.00 \$6.50—\$14.00
RODS	7½ TO 8½ FEET	LIGHT OR MEDIUM	TWO- OR THREE-PIECE	\$7.75—\$30.00
LINES	25 TO 30 YARDS LINE AS REQUIRED TO FILL REEL. MOST MANUFACTURERS RECOMMEND SIZE OF LINE TO BE USED WITH ROD		C OR D LEVEL HCH OR HDH TAPERS HCH	\$2.00\$3.00 \$6.00\$11.00
LEADERS	6-, 8-, 10-, or 12-POUND TEST; 1 X (2½-POUND TEST)		TAPERED OR LEVEL	



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- Battling Bass. Hawley-Lord, Inc., 61 W. 56th St., New York 19, N.Y.
- California Trout. Evinrude Motors, 4143 N. 27th St., Milwaukee, Wis
- Chasing Rainbows in Chile. Shakespeare Company, Kalamazoo 2, Mich.
- Fishing Thrills. Teaching Films Custodians, Inc., 25 W. 43rd St., New York, N.Y.
- Hook, Line, and Safety. Aetna Life Affiliated Companies, Public Education Department, Hartford, Conn.
- Keys to Adventure. Kiekhaefer Corporation, Fond du Lac, Wis.
- Let's Go Fishing. General Motors Corporation, 1526 Financial Center Building, San Francisco, Calif.
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